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DATE: 16 February 1953

TO: Security Officer
VIA: Deputy Security Officer
VIA: Chief, Security Research Staff, IAS
FROM: Chief, Technical Branch, SRS, IAS
SUBJECT: Report on ARTICHOKES by [redacted], Summary of [redacted]
[redacted] dated 2 February 1953.

1. Reference is made to the report of the [redacted] on the general ARTICHOKES problem which was received by this Office on 9 February 1953.

2. The [redacted] report is broken down into three parts. The first covering existing techniques and agents of all types; the second containing comments on existing programs that are in some way related to the ARTICHOKES Project; and the third section containing certain recommendations made by the [redacted] group. The report itself also contains Appendices which list some projects of interest to [redacted], a roster of the [redacted] group, and a schedule of meetings.

3. The [redacted] group first discusses various known techniques and agents. They point out that all individuals can be broken under mental and physical assault and by such techniques as dazing, sleep, exhaustion, persuasion, starvation, pain, humiliation, sickness, etc. They state that the capacity to endure assaults of all kinds varies in individuals.

4. The [redacted] group then points out that methods of seduction and persuasion as contrasted to the punitive methods can be very effective in obtaining information from an individual.

5. The third technique taken up is the usefulness of various chemical agents. They state in general terms that these agents do, in some ways, facilitate the obtaining of information from individuals but they also point out that these techniques are not perfect and that they do not necessarily prevent lying or withhold information and they also state that when individuals realize they are drugged, they tend to become doubly suspicious and often refuse them to talk which hampers the process. The [redacted] group lists only a few of the special chemicals and admits that others will be found to hasten and facilitate the process of persuasion.

6. The fourth major section takes up the fact that individuals under interrogation do often have amnesia or an unawareness for information they have given out. Briefly, they discuss the following points:

A. A person may say something unknowingly which is of value. They comment in this connection that certain chemical agents increase talking.

B. Secret information may be told outright and forgotten by the teller through the psychological process of repression. _____ again points out that chemical agents will often make it easier to forget that one has revealed information.

C. _____ discusses the "subtle" means of making an individual "say or do things against his will" by the use of secret drugs, "Black Psychiatry", hypnosis and brain-damaging processes. _____ feels that these processes may be tried but they are "elaborate, impractical and unnecessary." They comment in this connection that probably equivalent results could be achieved by experts using simple techniques of interrogation as previously mentioned.

D. The _____ group at this point in the report took up the matter of hypnosis and whether or not individuals will perform acts against their will and thereafter have no memory of the act. _____ points out that making one act against one's will, particularly in such matters as physically repugnant acts, acts of violence, acts of disloyalty, etc., could be produced only in instances of extreme rarity. The _____ group obviously feels that results from hypnosis either to produce amnesia or to produce acts of disloyalty by loyal and patriotic individuals would be negligible.

7. After considering the above techniques and methods in general terms, the _____ group discusses the possible uses of damaging the person. In general, _____ does not feel that the damaging of the individual, either through poisoning or by surgical or other means, is of great value in that such damaging may destroy other valuable capacities of the individual and results are at present unpredictable.

8. The basic _____ report concludes with a section in which they hold that the best methods for combating these techniques are:

1. Careful screening of individuals and studying their past activities.
2. A very careful safeguarding of secret information. (Limit the amount of information to each person and prevent those who must know much from coming under the influence of the enemy.)

3. Proper indoctrination in security matters.

4. The development of "high morale and discipline".

11 9. In the second main section of this report, the _____ group deals with a number of existing projects which are of interest to ARTICLES. Most of their comments in connection with such programs as the

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are negative and reflect that _____ does not believe there will be much gained from these efforts, at least in the immediate future—primarily because extensive psychological and psychiatric, as well as other types of research, is required.

10. The _____ group states that "although the present state of knowledge indicates little threat, if any, to National Security through special 'interrogation' techniques or agents, it is the considered opinion of the study group that the existing programs offer little hope of establishing the existence of, or of developing effective and practical techniques or agents."

11. The report concludes with their recommendations. These recommendations may be briefly summarized as follows:

H A. _____ urges use of skilled and experienced interrogators and those exposed to every interrogation to analyze and study the techniques and formulate procedures for instruction and protection.

B. The _____ group recommends that exhaustive studies be made of individuals that have proven to be poor security risks.

H C. _____ recommends that field study, particularly in where numerous prisoners are available, should be carried out to improve methods of interrogation with research teams having freedom of action in this connection.

D. That research be carried out involving current polygraph methods and these methods be tied into the psychological-psychiatric approach to the overall program.

H E. _____ again stresses the importance of developing procedures for the utmost care in screening and selecting of persons.

H. _____ also restates that careful, thorough, and intelligent indoctrination, including familiarity with persuasive methods, is vital.

H. 10. The _____ group also recommends broad studies, particularly studies having to do with mental processes of individuals, studies of psychological effects of chemicals, studies of the underlying principles of human behavior, studies of persuasion, seduction, and resistance, and studies directly on the effects of chemical agents with psychotic-type individuals.

H. 11. The basic report recommends that the _____ group hereafter not arrange any regular schedule of meetings but be called together when pertinent information is developed or special work is necessary. They estimate in this connection that two meetings a year will be sufficient.

12. The appendices attached are merely technical.

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